



cricket frog

Acris crepitans

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Amphibia
Order:	Anura
Family:	Hylidae

Features

The cricket frog averages one to 1 1/2 inches long. Its body color is light brown, black, olive, tan, or gray. The skin is warty. A dark triangle is present between the eyes. A dark stripe is found on the rear surface of the thigh. A tiny adhesive pad is present on the tip of each toe of the webbed feet. A light line is present from each eye to each shoulder and there are light bars on the nose.

Natural History

The cricket frog lives along the edges of streams, ponds, and ditches. Even though it is in the treefrog family, it does not live in trees. It eats arthropods (spiders, mites, insects, etc.), particularly insects. It generally is active during the day, but it may be active at night in the summer. The cricket frog is fairly tolerant of cold and may be active in the winter if the weather is not too severe. It is a tremendous leaper for its size. It breeds from late April through July. The male's call is a metallic "glick, glick, glick" which sounds like two small rocks being hit together. The

female deposits up to 400 eggs either singly or in small filmy packets on the water's surface. A few days later the eggs hatch into tadpoles which have black-tipped tails. Metamorphosis to froglets occurs five to ten weeks after hatching. Recently, there has been a decline in cricket frog populations in counties along the Minnesota border.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairies marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; wet prairies and fens; temporary water supplies; bottomland forests

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.